

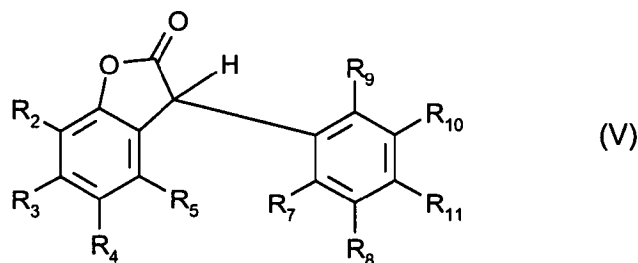
In the claims:

**1-10 (cancelled).**

**11.** A process for reducing the discoloration produced upon contact with nitrogen oxides originating from combustion gases during curing in a gas oven of heat-curable powder coating compositions which comprise **[[s]]** an epoxy resin, a polyester-hydroxyalkylamide, a polyester-glycoluril, an epoxy-polyester resin, a polyester-triglycidyl isocyanurate, a hydroxy-functional polyester-blocked polyisocyanate, a hydroxy-functional polyester-uretdione, an acrylate resin with hardener or a mixture of such resins, and the coatings produced therefrom,  
~~comprising which process comprises~~ incorporating into ~~or applying to~~ said compositions before curing at least one ~~compound of the benzofuran-2-one type as~~ stabilizer.  
~~which compositions in the course of curing, are in contact with nitrogen oxides originating from combustion gases.~~

**12-16.** (cancelled).

**17. (new)** A process according to claim 11, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of the formula V

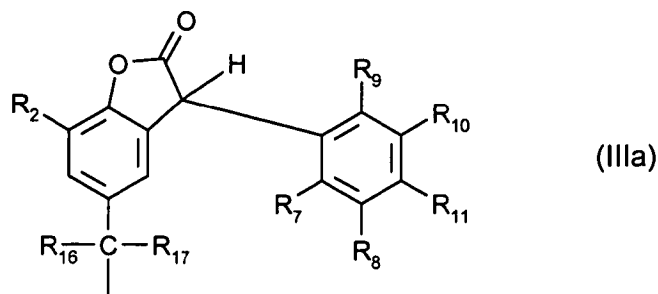


wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen,

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl or a radical of the formula IIIa



R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen,

R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> independently of one another are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy,

R<sub>11</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkanoyloxy or  $\text{—O—}\begin{array}{c} \text{R}_{20} \quad \text{R}_{21} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{C—C—O—R}_{23} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{H} \quad \text{R}_{22} \end{array}$ , with the

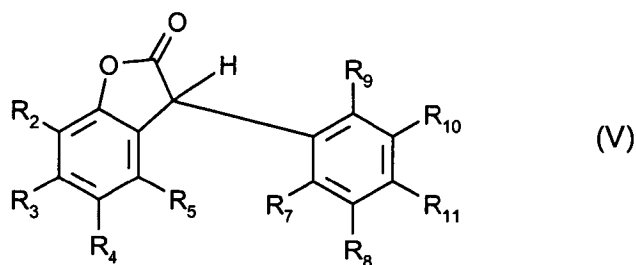
proviso that at least two of the radicals R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are hydrogen;

R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub>, together with the C atom to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or mono- to tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-substituted cyclohexylidene ring,

R<sub>20</sub>, R<sub>21</sub> and R<sub>22</sub> are hydrogen, and

R<sub>23</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkanoyl.

**18. (new)** A process according to claim 17, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is a compound of the formula V

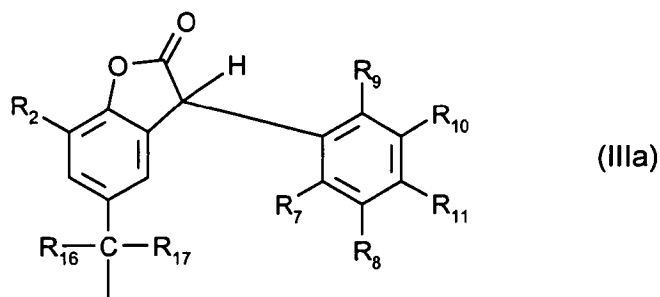


in which

R<sub>2</sub> is tert-butyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen,

R<sub>4</sub> tert-butyl or a radical of the formula IIIa



$R_5$  is hydrogen,

$R_7$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  independently of one another are hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy,

$R_{11}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkoxy,  $C_2$ - $C_8$ alkanoyloxy or  $-O-\overset{\overset{R_{20}}{|}}{\underset{\underset{H}{|}}{C}}-\overset{\overset{R_{21}}{|}}{\underset{\underset{R_{22}}{|}}{C}}-O-R_{23}$ , with the

proviso that at least two of the radicals  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  are hydrogen;

$R_{16}$  and  $R_{17}$ , together with the C atom to which they are attached, form a cyclohexylidene ring,

$R_{20}$ ,  $R_{21}$  and  $R_{22}$  are hydrogen, and

$R_{23}$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyl.

**19. (new)** A process according to claim 11, wherein the benzofuran-2-one is present in an amount of from 0.001 to 10% based on the weight of the powder coating composition.

**20. (new)** A process according to claim 11, wherein the powder coating composition comprises as further additives one or more components from the group consisting of pigments, dyes, fillers, levelling assistants, devolatilizing agents, charge control agents, optical brighteners, adhesion promoters, antioxidants, light stabilizers, curing catalysts, photoinitiators, wetting auxiliaries or corrosion protection agents.

**21. (new)** A process according to claim 11, wherein the powder coating composition comprises as further additives one or more components from the group consisting of phenolic antioxidants, sterically hindered amines, organic phosphites, organic phosphonites and thiosynergists.